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MESSAGE

FROM THE
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

TRANSMITTING

A REPORT

OF THE

SURVEYOR OF THE PUBLIC BUILDINGS

OF THE

UNITED STATES,

IN THE

CITY OF WASHINGTON.

DECEMBER 1, 1808.

RECEIVED.

DECEMBER 2, 1808.

Read and ordered to lie on the table.

CITY OF WASHINGTON;

A. & C. WAT, PRINTERS.

.....
1808.



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543

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MESSAGE

TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

FROM THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY

DATE: 1914

SUBJECT: REPORT ON THE PROGRESS OF THE ARMY

1. The Secretary of the Army has the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th inst.

and in reply to inform you that the same has been forwarded to the proper authorities for their consideration.

2. The Secretary of the Army has the honor to inform you that the same has been forwarded to the proper authorities for their consideration.

Very respectfully,
The Secretary of the Army

Very respectfully,
The Secretary of the Army

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The Secretary of the Army

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The Secretary of the Army

MESSAGE.

*To the Senate and House of Representatives of
the United States.*

I transmit to both houses of congress, a report from the surveyor of the public buildings, of the progress made on them during the last season, of their present state, of the expenditures incurred, and of those which may be requisitè for their further prosecution.

TH : JEFFERSON.

December 1, 1808.

THE HISTORY OF

THE CITY OF BOSTON

FROM 1630 TO 1830

BY SAMUEL JOHNSON

IN TWO VOLUMES

VOLUME THE SECOND

BOSTON: PUBLISHED BY

JOHNSON, GREEN, & CO. 1830

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REPORT.

TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

The report of the surveyor of the public buildings of the United States, in the city of Washington, November 18, 1808.

SIR,

The several appropriations made at the last session of congress, for the progress of the work on the public buildings, have, during the late recess of the legislature, been applied to their specific objects in the manner which I now beg leave to report to you.

I. SOUTH WING OF THE CAPITOL.

In this wing, all the wood work and the covering of the roof have been painted; the iron railing of the vestibule and stairs has been provided; the sculptors have been diligently employed in the interior of the hall upon the figures of the frieze on the cornice, and the capitals of the columns. The ceiling has been painted in a masterly manner by Mr. George Bridport of Philadelphia; the lobbies of the house have been finished, and the inconveniences experienced during the last session have been obviated by a great variety of improvements in detail.

II. NORTH WING OF THE CAPITOL.

The appropriation for this wing has been specifically applied agreeably to the words of the act, *to carry up, in solid work, the interior of the north wing, comprising*

the senate chamber, according to the design submitted to congress, in the year 1806, and partly executed in 1807.

This design, presuming that the brick-work of the building could be depended upon, did not contemplate the removal of the brick arcade surrounding the senate chamber. But on opening the floors, every part of the wood-work was found to be much more decayed than was ever apprehended, so that no one floor in the whole building could be considered as safe. Scarcely a single principal girder or beam was entirely sound, the tenants of the oak joists were generally rotten, and the only species of timber, which had at all withstood decay, was the pine and poplar of which the beams and the pillars were made. All the white oak was seized by the dry rot, and even the trusses of oak, let into sound beams of pine, were far advanced in decay.* Almost all the plates and bond timber, which were partly buried in the walls, were in the interior reduced to powder; and even many of the pine posts, over which the lathed and plaistered columns of the senate chamber were formed, were rotten.

Upon the most decayed part of such timber the brick piers of the senate chamber stood; they were admirably constructed; but of seven superficial feet, which each of them occupied, five feet had no other foundation to rest upon. Independently of this general rottenness of the timber, the frequent alterations which the design had undergone during its original progress, had weakened the work, and one of the most heavy walls had been so cut down in its lower part, that whenever the timber had given way, the top must have fallen into the senate chamber.

It became therefore necessary to go down to the very foundation, to take down and rebuild the arcade, now a part of the court room, and to carry up the

* The state of the timber generally, may be observed as it lies near the building in a situation open to inspection.

whole work solidly from the bottom of the cellar. All this was accomplished about the middle of September; but on the 19th of that month, the floor of the senate chamber, with the vault of the court room, which supported it, fell in; and though no other part of the work, except the cellar arches below, was thereby damaged; and the value of the loss suffered in labour and materials did not exceed \$ 800, yet the death of Mr. Lenthall, clerk of the works, who was buried in the ruins, renders this accident a most serious misfortune to the public: for to his consummate skill as a mechanic, and to his unimpeachable integrity, the public are indebted, in a great measure, for the perfect execution which characterizes the works erected since the year 1803. The cause of this accident is to be found in the manner in which the level floor of the senate chamber was raised upon the back of the vault; in the construction of which my better judgment yielded to arguments of economy.

Since this accident, progress has been made in rebuilding this vault in a safer, though less expeditious manner; and in a few weeks of the next season all may be restored.

In addition to the apartments of the senate, a stone stairs has been executed by Mr. George Blagden, in a style of very superior workmanship.

III. PRESIDENT'S HOUSE.

Agreeably to the provisions of the law, the wall of enclosure round the president's ground, has been completed, and the workmen are now setting the capping. A flight of stone steps, a bridge, and platform over the area of the north front, are nearly completed.

The appropriations being now nearly exhausted, the work must soon be closed and the workmen discharged, unless it should please the legislature to proceed further towards the completion of the public buildings. I, therefore, beg leave to submit the following,

Statement and estimate of work, proposed for the next season.

I. SOUTH WING OF THE CAPITOL.

To continue the work on the capitals of the columns of the house of representatives, to defray expense of repairs of glass, and minor repairs; to procure strong American glass for the large windows of the hall, which have been hitherto imperfectly glazed, and independently of the inconvenience, are liable to frequent breakage: and to put up 10 deficient chimney pieces, will be required \$6,000

I beg leave to remark that this sum includes the salaries of the Italian sculptors engaged by contract in the service of the United States, and who, when no longer employed, are to be sent home at the public expense. The future annual expense of this wing will not exceed 5000 \$

II. NORTH WING OF THE CAPITOL, APARTMENTS OF THE SENATE.

The apartments of the senate consist of

1. The senate chamber.
2. The vestibule in the centre of the house.
3. The lobby or withdrawing room.
- 4, 5. The secretary's office, 2 rooms, one for the records.
- 6, 9. Four committee rooms: two on a level with the floor of the senate, two above stairs.
- 10, 11. The gallery stairs, and committee room stair case.
12. The passage to the lobby and cloak room.
- 13, 16. Three store rooms above stairs.
- 18, 19. The lower entrance and principal stairs.

All these apartments may be completely finished by the middle of August next. All these rooms are ready for the plaisterer excepting the senate chamber and the rooms in the recess, which are to be rebuilt from the foundation, being the most rotten part of the remaining building, except the library.

These works will require, independently of furniture, \$ 20,000.

3. Library and offices of judiciary on the west side of the north wing.

The room now containing the library is much too small for the books already purchased, which are obliged to be piled up in heaps ; and unless immediate steps be taken to complete the permanent accommodations for the library, the utmost embarrassment will ensue. This and the rotten state of the west side of the north wing, which remains untouched, induces me to propose immediate measures to this effect. An appropriation of \$ 25,000 will carry up the whole of this side of the house solidly, complete the staircase, and after the next session, the library may be fitted up and receive the books before the session of 1810—11.

The library will consist of, besides a private reading room for the members of the legislature, the great library, which is calculated to contain not less than 40,000 books against its walls in three stages or galleries ; and two store-rooms for unbound books, pamphlets, and deposited copies of the laws.

The apartments of the judiciary will be,

1. The court room.
2. The judges' chamber for consultation and library.
3. The office of the marshal.
4. do. of the clerk of the supreme court.
5. do. of the clerk of the circuit do.
- 6, 7. Two petit jury rooms.
- 9, 10. Rooms for record.
- 11, 13. Lobbies, passages and stairs.

I beg leave in one view to exhibit the advantages gained by the alteration of the north wing. The senatorial apartments formerly consisted of,

1. The senate chamber.
2. The secretary's office.

3, 6. Two committee rooms, one above, one below, and two detached rooms over the entrance.

7, 9. Two large lumber rooms above.

10, 16. Four lobbies, and two stair-cases, 14

The court occupies one room, . 1

15

There are three rooms and a stair-case in the brick part of the wing, which are not proposed at present to be changed.

By the alterations is gained,

1. Senatorial apartments, . . . 19

2. Judiciary, . . . 13

3. Library, . . . 11

36

Besides the whole range of cellars formerly useless, neither light nor air being admitted to them.

4. Addition to the north west corner of the south wing.

I again beg to point out the necessity of building the north west part of the apartments of the house of representatives in the south wing, and to refer to my report of last session. The accumulation of water in the cellars, formerly dug on this spot, which cannot be prevented, continues to injure the foundation, and a perceptible, though small settlement of this corner has taken place during the present year. The temporary water closets are at present a great nuisance, which can only be removed by completing this part of the design, which will contain additional committee rooms, one for the standing committee of the district of Columbia, and two others for special committees, for whom no accommodation whatever now exists.

This work will require an appropriation of 18,000 dollars.

IV. PRESIDENT'S HOUSE.

The wall of enclosure being now nearly finished, the following additions are necessary towards the completion of this building. 1. Carriage house, which is now entirely deficient. 2. The gate of the north front. 3. The platform on the south front now of wood and entirely rotten. 4. The regulation of the ground west of the house struck out of the appropriation of last year, and the current repairs and improvements of the house. To perform this work will be required 12,000 dollars.

RECAPITULATION,

1. South wing,	6,000
2. North do. senate,	20,000
3. Do. library and judiciary,	25,000
4. North west corner of south wing,	18,000
5. President's house,	12,000

§ 81,000

I also beg leave to suggest whether it will not be necessary at the public expense to make the road on the south side of the president's square, which for want of gravel, and the necessary sewers, will in a short time be impassable. An annual appropriation for the roads between the public buildings has been made until the last year. If this object is to be provided for, the sum of § 3,000 would be required to secure the work already done, and provide for general repairs.

All which is most respectfully submitted.

B. HENRY LATROBE,

Surveyor of the public buildings
Of the United States.

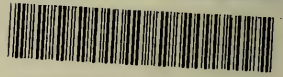
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